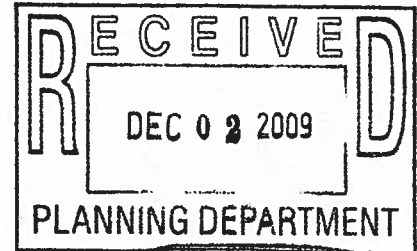


**Barbara & Harry Ellmore
Ellmore's Garden Center
86 North Reid Street
Hamilton, Va. 20158
540-338-7760**

November 30, 2009

**Re: Scott Jenkins Memorial Sport Park
Spec-2009-0015**

**Loudoun County Planning Commission
Work Session**



Dear Planning Commissioners,

We have established there is no ambient light source in our greenhouses with night visits of Commissioners Maio and Ruedisueli and the presence of color on our poinsettias as seen by Commissioners Syska, Austin and Bayless, our poinsettias are right on schedule. With support of Dr. Latimer, Va. Tech. as a technical resource on the detrimental effects of light on poinsettias we would not be able to grow a quality, marketable poinsettia if there was light pollution present.

If this was your business of 37 years, your livelihood, would you be willing to take the risk that the schematics of the foot candles of light provided by Musco is actually what will be perceived at your greenhouses and not just a projection? This is not proven data, even with visits to other sites with the same type of lighting that will be used at the park there is no guarantee that the light meter reading will be exactly the same at entirely two different locations. Without some kind of guarantee that our crops will be safe from light pollution we can not accept this as proof. There are too many mediating circumstances.

There are 91 parks, 21 are lit plus 2 more that are rented that also have lights, must this sports park have lights too, when it will serve only the special interest of the sports community? Is there a reason why these ball field lights should take precedence over an established business of 37 years that is provided fundamental protection under the Rural Policy?

Why is this application moving forward without a Virginia Health Department permit? Permit was denied April 6, 2009, as of today November 30, 2009 there still is no permit on file.

Traffic Impact Report: Virginia Department of Transportation. All trip rates are based on soccer fields and do not define County Parks as ball fields and does not

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justify conservativeness of the trips as stated by the study. Study refers to traffic impact analysis for Fauquier Northern Area Park, not Loudoun.

The Revised General Plan and Rural Policy Area supports the preservation of-

Quiet enjoyment of private property.

Protect the beauty of the night sky by sound night lighting, reducing light pollution such as glare, light trespass, and the deterioration of the natural nighttime environment. This is necessary for light sensitive crops especially poinsettias.

Parks and Recreation policy is to protect environmental integrity, and to provide buffers between different land uses. What buffers are they planning on using other than the 6 foot tall trees they are going to plant to stop the light trespass (from lights on poles that are 80 feet tall) onto our property as well as our neighbors in Quail Creek since Dominion has clear cut most of the trees along Meadowlark Drive? The only trees left will be on the park's fence line along the Route 7 by-pass and are not tall enough to stop the ambient light including the 6 foot tall trees they are planning on using. In whose life time will these trees be tall enough to stop the light trespass from the ball field lights on 80 foot poles?

The proposed site is in a limited water supply area and the daily use of 6000 gallons of water a day will seriously jeopardize the ground water table especially in dry weather for this area that is serviced by wells and the County's Green Infrastructure policy is preservation, ensuring an adequate supply of drinking water, protecting groundwater and surface water. To have a dependable water supply is mandatory for everyone including us as water is the life line of greenhouses.

The proposed site does have a drainage problem that needs to be addressed, there is a stream that comes from the proposed park site that feeds our pond, a neighbor's pond and runs along Irene Road then runs on out into Catoclin Creek. The County's Green Infrastructure Surface and Groundwater Resources states "Storm water is also polluted by substances deposited on the impervious ground cover such as litter, road salt, oil, grease and metal from automobiles". Surface water Policies states "The County will establish appropriate standards and land uses to protect drinking water supplies from depletion and pollution". When the County was drilling the wells our neighbor Mrs. Green called the Health Department because her creek actually was covered with something white all over the top.

The proposed site on Route 7, Colonial Highway is a state designated Virginia By-Ways road that is addressed as part of the County's Green Infrastructure. A sports park is not addressed or defined as being associated with, compatible or visually appealing to be classified as a scenic view or area along these scenic by-ways.

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Loudoun's rich agricultural heritage—farms have defined Loudoun County's unique sense of place for more than 240 years. These farms and communities are important economic, scenic and historic resources, once this land-based resource is lost, it cannot be replaced. There must be a viable economy to preserve the rural landscape.

RLMP Policy "guide future rural land use changes and conserve irreplaceable agricultural and environmental resources".

Both properties are in the agricultural district and by changing the principal use of this agricultural property to a sports park will jeopardize the existing rural economy use and an agricultural based business of 37 years that is provided fundamental protection under the Rural Policy. After all, Loudoun County is an agriculture county, but in these economic times all business should be very important to you and not be sacrificed just for ball fields with lights.

The County supports the "Right to Farm" policy. This gives us the right to grow and sell as a farmer, not grow what ball field lights allow us to grow, placing unreasonable controls on a farming operation.

Preservation and enhancement of the rural economy is a central focus of the rural strategy, and to provide fundamental protection for rural businesses. Ellmore's Garden Center has been a stable and viable part of the County's rural economy for 37 years and 3 families depend on our agribusiness for their livelihood. The Rural Economic Development Task Force called on the County to preserve the rural economy's natural resource base and the Board of Supervisors, in adopting the document called protection of the rural area its top priority.

It is imperative to protect this existing agricultural business; this heritage to our children will ensure the rural economy use for the next 25 plus years as a sustainability to protect the land resources for the rural economy.

Please support our request for "No Lights" and protect our agribusiness from the intrusion of ball field lights.

Respectfully,

**Barbara and Harry Ellmore
Ellmore's Garden Center**

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Cost analysis of initial black cloth installation	192,000.00
Annual cost increase associated with black cloth	1,000.00
Replacement cost of black cloth every 3 to 5 years	49,000.00

****NOTE – FIGURES ARE BASED ON CURRENT RATES. Should assume a 5% increase per year for cost escalation.**